SUBJECTS.

expense. He therefore requested that the Government might purchase the copy-rights of such books from the authors, and print and sell them at reasonable prices to the students.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

60. *Technical and Agricultural education in North Travancore.*

Mr. C. Mathan Mappilla (Member, Meenachil Taluk) said that Travancore was almost exclusively agricultural, and that, though modern science had to be largely indented upon to conserve and reform agriculture, its aid had not been adequately invoked as yet. The agricultural products o North Travancore were not sufficient to meet even the local demand, though the country was not lacking in fertility and natural resources. He said that this was due to the conservative nature of the people, especially of the agriculturists. He therefore requested the Government to step in as early as possible to advise and educate the masses, through the younger generation, to adopt improved methods and labour-saving machinery. The Member said that, in point of population and natural resources, North Travancore stood superior to South Travancore and that all the people in the former were agriculturists with a due proportion of artisan classes. To promote the well-being of these agriculturists, he said that systematic agricultural instruction in the Elementary Schools had become an absolute necessity. Nature study was included in the curriculum of studies for the Higher Grade Elementary Schools, but, beyond that, nothing practical or instructive was done. The Member suggested that a small model farm might be attached to each school and that the boys in the schools might be given some practical training in the methods of up-to-date agriculture. He said that the subject should be made compulsory by the Education Department and the curriculum amended accordingly. The trained teachers required for the purpose could be had by giving the teachers in Elementary Schools a training under the Director of Agriculture in rotation. Coming to the petty artisan classes, the Member said that it was a deplorable fact that the younger generation had all taken to the proverbial three R's, forsaking their traditional occupations, and drifted about the country in search of petty non-productive appointments. He attributed it to the system of education adopted by the Government. In his opinion, a purely literary education to the artisan classes was a misnomer and involved waste of public money. He therefore advocated the opening of a well-equipped Technical and Industrial Institute at a central place, where boys could be taught useful handicrafts, such as weaving,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

tanning, carpentry, and arts such as drawing, levelling, surveying, shorthand, typewriting and other useful commercial subjects.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

61. ***Encouragement of Ezhavas in technical studies.***

Mr. N. Kumaran Ashan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for the present liberal policy inaugurated by the new Education Code and for the prompt action taken in throwing open some of the Sirkar Schools which had remained closed to Ezhava children on some ground or other, and he hoped that, in a couple of years, the educational disabilities of the community, under the wise educatonal policy of the Government, would be a thing of the past.

The Ezhavas were a backward community, especially in general and higher education. The community had only a few men who had received higher education, and there were not many in the Colleges prosecuting their studies for University degrees. Materially also, the community was backward, and there were not many families who could afford to give their young men a higher professional and techuical training in Europe or America.

When, in the past, the Government resolved on sending some young men to Europe, the choice was confined to two communities, the Nairs and the Christians. He said that the Ezhavas were a very important section of His Highness' subjects and their backwardness entitled them to some substantial encourgement at the hands of the Government, more than any other equally important community in the State. He therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to grant scholarships for technical studies in Europe — including professional and essentially technical subjects — to qualified Ezhava students, as a special consideration of the backward condition of the community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly